



STERLING

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Sterling is a small, mainly residential community set in the foothills of Mount Wachusett in central Massachusetts. Incorporated in 1781, the town is named for the Earl of Sterling, a Scottish lord. At various times in its history, clocks, hats, cider, pottery and other goods have been manufactured in Sterling, but until recently it has been mostly a farming community of rolling hills, pastures and some spectacular views of Mount Wachusett. Sterling is the home of Mary Sawyer of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" fame. There is a statue of the lamb in the Town Common which attracts many visitors. Sterling is also the home of the Butterick dress pattern, which was originally designed and patented by Ebenezer Butterick in 1896. The Town of Sterling is centrally located between the cities of Worcester and Fitchburg and is easily accessible to each by way of Route I-190. Residents enjoy the rural atmosphere of this pleasant town and also have easy access to museums, plays, Worcester Centrum activities and skiing at Mount Wachusett.

Each year in early September, the Sterling Town Fair attracts people from far and near who enjoy the many attractions of the fair; horse and oxen pulls, game booths, rides, good food, and music.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Leominster on the north, Lancaster and Clinton on the east, West Boylston on the south, and Holden and Princeton on the west. Sterling is 12 miles north of Worcester, 41 miles west of Boston, and 186 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 31.61 sq. miles

Land Area: 30.53 sq. miles

Population: 6,481

Density: 212 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Sterling, Clinton

Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 422-8111

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1781

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 6,011

Democrats 1,190 19.8 % Republicans 1,091 18.2 % Other parties 5 0.1 % Unenrolled Voters 3,725 62.0 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Sterling town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	7,257	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	7,257	100.0
Male.....	3,612	49.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	59	0.8
Female.....	3,645	50.2	Mexican.....	10	0.1
Under 5 years.....	483	6.7	Puerto Rican.....	22	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	619	8.5	Cuban.....	3	-
10 to 14 years.....	590	8.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	24	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	439	6.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	7,198	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	275	3.8	White alone.....	7,081	97.6
25 to 34 years.....	776	10.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,454	20.0	Total population.....	7,257	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,302	17.9	In households.....	7,256	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	408	5.6	Householder.....	2,573	35.5
60 to 64 years.....	256	3.5	Spouse.....	1,797	24.8
65 to 74 years.....	352	4.9	Child.....	2,443	33.7
75 to 84 years.....	247	3.4	Own child under 18 years.....	1,902	26.2
85 years and over.....	56	0.8	Other relatives.....	220	3.0
Median age (years).....	38.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	73	1.0
18 years and over.....	5,260	72.5	Nonrelatives.....	223	3.1
Male.....	2,564	35.3	Unmarried partner.....	124	1.7
Female.....	2,696	37.2	In group quarters.....	1	-
21 years and over.....	5,060	69.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	791	10.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1	-
65 years and over.....	655	9.0	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	315	4.3	Total households.....	2,573	100.0
Female.....	340	4.7	Family households (families).....	2,069	80.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,026	39.9
One race.....	7,215	99.4	Married-couple family.....	1,797	69.8
White.....	7,116	98.1	With own children under 18 years.....	896	34.8
Black or African American.....	42	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	188	7.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	7	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	99	3.8
Asian.....	29	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	504	19.6
Asian Indian.....	5	0.1	Householder living alone.....	394	15.3
Chinese.....	7	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	156	6.1
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,079	41.9
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	484	18.8
Korean.....	12	0.2	Average household size.....	2.82	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.16	(X)
Other Asian ¹	4	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	2,637	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,573	97.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	64	2.4
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	26	1.0
Some other race.....	20	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	42	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.3	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	2,573	100.0
White.....	7,151	98.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,186	85.0
Black or African American.....	52	0.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	387	15.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	26	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.94	(X)
Asian.....	44	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.14	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-			
Some other race.....	27	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 40

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 12, 62, and 140, and Interstate Route 190 running N-S.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available in the neighboring town of Leominster. Travel time from North Leominster Station: 78-87 minutes; 60 MBTA parking spaces. The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Sterling is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA), which provides paratransit services to the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.